

MICHAUD ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION FUNDING FOR MAINE

Wednesday, July 27 2005

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— As details continued to emerge Wednesday morning, Congressman Michael Michaud highlighted a number of projects in Maine that he secured through the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior-Environment Appropriations Act. The Conference report that became available indicated that Maine would receive at least \$12 million in such projects through the legislation, including critical funds for the Penobscot River Restoration Project, the Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) Katahdin Iron Works project near Greenville, and sewer projects for Machias and Dover-Foxcroft, among others.

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"It is clear that a number of Maine communities stand to benefit significantly from this legislation," said Congressman Michaud. "I am very pleased to be able to announce this funding, and I am glad that the committee is recognizing the important needs in Maine and the tremendous progress that many areas are making in preserving land, saving threatened species, and delivering clean water to our communities."

The bill provides more funding than the House-passed Interior-Environment bill for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, increases the fund for the National Park Operations over FY 2005, and provides small increases for Superfund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Specifically, the FY 2006 Environment-Interior Bill included the following funding for Maine:

Restoration Project – \$1,000,000

Atlantic salmon recovery through the US Fish &
Wildlife Service – \$1,000,000

Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery's Wastewater
Treatment Project – \$2,480,000

AMC's Katahdin Iron Works Project – \$4,500,000

The Machias
River Project –
\$1,500,000

Machias Wastewater Treatment Project – \$502,000

Dover-Foxcroft Waterline Extension – \$472,000

The funding for salmon in the bill, and particularly the Penobscot River Restoration Project, indicates a new level of commitment through the Department of Interior for Atlantic salmon preservation. Said Congressman Michaud, "This is the first time that the Department of Interior will commit funds to the Penobscot River Restoration Project. I began my career in public service in order to clean up the Penobscot River, and having since worked for almost 30 years at Great Northern Paper Company, restoring salmon to the Penobscot River. It is exciting that we will see further progress on the efforts to restore the Penobscot and bring jobs to the communities along its banks." means a lot to me.

"The Katahdin Iron Works Project was recognized by the US Forest Service as one of the most important and well constructed Forest Legacy projects in America. Throughout the planning of this project, the Appalachian Mountain Club has worked with Greenville residents and sportsmen, and I am pleased to see progress on a project that will conserve land along the Appalachian Trail and allow recreational access that will contribute to Greenville's economy," said Congressman Michaud.

“The Machias River Project enables the State of Maine, with the Nature Conservancy and International Paper Inc., to purchase and protect 7,785 acres and continue to work toward the protection of the Machias River’s headwaters. In combination with other projects in the area, the Machias River Project will ensure conservation and allow Washington County to continue to establish itself as a destination for sportsmen throughout the Country.”

“Funding for wastewater and sewer facilities in Machias and Dover-Foxcroft is important for those communities. These projects will continue to help Maine communities with clean water initiatives, and this is one step in doing more to make sure that our rural communities have the resources they need to provide town services and keep property taxes in check,” said the Congressman.

Further action on the Fiscal Year 2006 Environment-Interior bill is expected in the House of Representatives on Thursday or Friday.

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